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KNUCKLES™

THE ECHIDNA

DIRECT EDITION

KNUCKLES
BOOK SIXTEEN

REUNIONS

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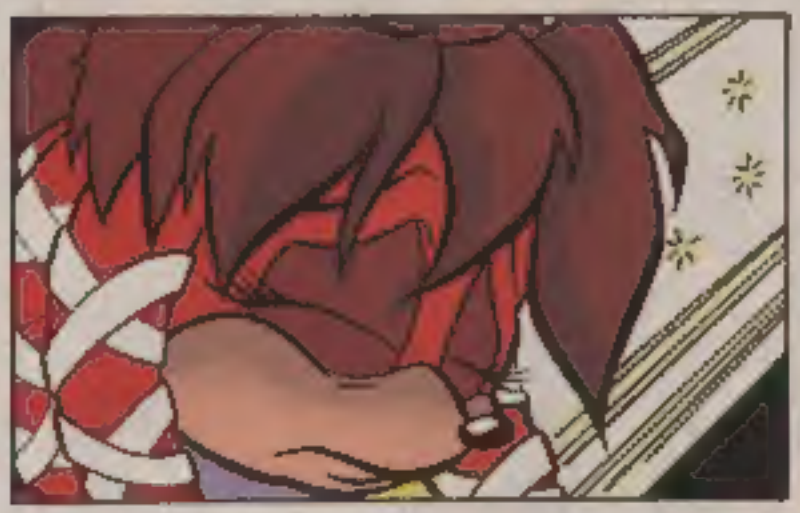
BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN IT FROM WITHIN, HE IS NONE OTHER THAN KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

WHEN WE LAST SAW OUR HEROES, THE CHAOTIX HAD WITNESSED THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT CEREMONY OF THEIR FRIEND CHARMY, WHO REMAINED BEHIND AS PRINCE OF HIS OWN PEOPLE WHILE ESPIO, MIGHTY, VECTOR AND JULIE-SU RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES ON THE FLOATING ISLAND.

MEANWHILE, DEEP WITHIN HAVEN, LOCKE AND SABRE WITNESSED KNUCKLES HARNESSING POWER BEYOND BELIEF BEFORE VANISHING FROM SIGHT, PRESUMABLY RETURNING TO THE FLOATING ISLAND AFTER HIS DISCOVERY OF ALBION.

NOW, AS A NEW DAY DAWNS, THOUGHTS TURN NOT TO THOSE OF EXCITEMENT AND ADVENTURE, BUT OF FEELINGS OF LONGING AND SPENDING TIME WITH THOSE ONE CHERISHES, AS WE FIND LARA-LE THIS MORNING IN THE SANCTITY OF THE AURORIUM...



ECHIDNA TOWERS

BZZZ-KLAK!

KNUCKLES IN: REUNIONS

YOU'RE HOME!

MOM!

OH, KNUCKLES!

I PRAYED EVERY DAY AND NIGHT FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN!

I'M FINE, MOM!

REALLY!

HEY!!

WHAT'S THAT RACKET OUT THERE?

Ahh! MOTHER HEN HAS ARRIVED!

HERE! THIS DRINK OF MILK WILL RELAX YOU!

YOU MEAN YOU KNEW THAT KNUCKLES WAS BACK?

WHEN DID YOU FIND OUT, WYN?

ALL IN GOOD TIME, DARLING LARA!

IN THE MEANTIME, WHY NOT GET CAUGHT UP WITH YOUR SON--

--WHILE I FINISH COOKING DINNER!

THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA!

AFTER THE WAY YOU AND GRANDFATHER ATHAIR DEPARTED, KNUCKLES--

SHE'S GONNA ASK! I CAN FEEL IT!

"--I'M MORE THAN *CURIOUS* TO KNOW *HOW* YOU MADE YOUR WAY *BACK*! "

SWITCHING TO *STEALTH* MODE--

--AS I APPROACH THE FLOATING ISLAND ON COURSE--

--ENTERING THROUGH THE *HOLOGRAPHICALLY CLOAKED* PORTAL--

--WHICH SERVES AS A GATEWAY TO THE *FLIGHT DECK* OF NONE OTHER THAN--

HAVEN!

IT'S SO GOOD TO RETURN TO *FAMILIAR* SURROUNDINGS AFTER MONTHS IN THE HINTERLANDS!

TOBOR! IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, ANCESTOR!

WELCOME HOME!

IS THAT YOU, SABRE?

WHO ELSE IS WITH YOU?

"EVERYONE OF THE CURRENT BROTHERHOOD IS GATHERED, FOR THERE IS MUCH TO DISCUSS--

"--AND DECIDE!"

LET ME SEE IF I HAVE THIS STRAIGHT--

YOU RETURNED BY CREATING AN ENERGY TUNNEL OF SOME KIND--

--ALL BY YOURSELF?

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

I WAS HOPING--

--THAT MAYBE YOU COULD TELL ME!

AFTER ALL--

--WHO WOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT ME THAN MY PARENTS?

YOU WERE BORN THE SAME AS ANY ECHIDNA, KNUCKLES--

" -BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK YOUR FATHER WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOUR BIRTH AND HATCHING ! "

LOCKE ! IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH KNUCKLES ?

WHY CAN'T I SEE H.M ?

DR JAKK SIMPLY WANTS TO RUN SOME TESTS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT EVERYTHING IS ALRIGHT !

" IT NORMALLY TAKES THREE DAYS BETWEEN BIRTH AND HATCHING, BUT A DAY LATER I WAS HOLDING YOU IN MY ARMS "

HE HAS YOU FOR A MOTHER, LARA !

HOW COULD HE BE ANYTHING BUT ?

ISN'T HE BEAUTIFUL, LOCKE ?

"EVERYTHING SEEMED FINE UNTIL MONTHS LATER WHEN I FOUND YOU PLAYING—

GOO GOO!

"... I WITNESSED THE FIRST SIGN THAT SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU ! "

DIFFERENT?

IN WHAT WAY, MOTHER?

YOU WERE SPELLING WORDS FAR IN ADVANCE OF YOUR AGE LEVEL! BEFORE YOU COULD EVEN SPEAK!

WORDS EVEN I HAD TROUBLE WITH SOMETIMES!

"WHEN YOU WERE BUT THREE YEARS OF AGE, IT WAS YOUR FATHER WHO SUPERVISED YOUR TRAINING, AND DETERMINED WHAT WAS IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS!"

DON'T YOU THINK I SHOULD HAVE SOME SAY, LOCKE? HE'S MY SON AS WELL!

E=mc²

x+y

THIS IS HOW I WAS BROUGHT UP, LARA-

-AS WERE MY ANCESTORS BEFORE ME!

"FEELING OUT OF MY DEPTH, I SOUGHT COUNCEL FROM YOUR GRANDMOTHER JENNA LU."

I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT TO DO!

YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS, LARA-LE?

YOU THINK *RELATIONSHIPS* ARE A MATTER OF *EQUALITY*--

--WHEREAS THEY'RE *REALLY* A MATTER OF *GIVE AND TAKE*!

EXCUSE ME?

TAKE YOUR SITUATION WITH *LOCKE* AND *KNUCKLES*!

YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE AS MUCH *INFLUENCE* OVER KNUCKLES AS DOES LOCKE!

I'M HIS MOTHER!

YES, BUT KNUCKLES IS *DESTINED* TO BE A *GUARDIAN*!

LOCKE TEACHES HIM WHAT HIS *DUTIES* WILL BE!

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND--

--CAN SET AN *EXAMPLE* BY SHOWING HIM THE *PERSON* HE CAN *BECOME*!

MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

CERTAINLY, *LARA DEAR*!

AND I ASKED HER--

"ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE WAY TH NGS TURNED OUT FOR YOU ?

AND WAS SHE ?

SHE SMILED AND SAID SIMPLY--

I'D BE LOST WITHOUT MY DARLING SABRE !

"SO THEN WHAT HAPPENED ?"

I TRIED TO TAKE HER ADVICE, BUT I'M AFRAID I WAS BROUGHT UP DIFFERENTLY FROM YOUR GRANDMOTHER.

IN SOME WAYS, YOU REMIND ME OF WHAT LITTLE I REMEMBER OF GRANDMOTHER JENNA !

TIME AND EXPERIENCE WILL DO THAT TO A PERSON, KNUCKLES--

KISS THE

"--AND I'M *NOT* THE SAME PERSON I *AM NOW* THAT I WAS *THEN*!"

NOW THAT WE HAVE ALL GATHERED, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO GET CAUGHT UP!

WOULD YOU CARE TO BEGIN, GRANDFATHER TOBOR?

ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE *DRAGON KINGDOM*--

--EXCEPT FOR THAT BIT OF BUSINESS INVOLVING A *HEDGEHOG* KNOWN AS *SONIC* AND HIS FRIEND *TAILS*!*

FORTUNATELY, THINGS DIDN'T GET SO OUT OF HAND THAT I HAD TO STEP IN!

* CHECK OUT *SONIC* #60 FOR DETAILS - JUSTIN

" IF HE'S THE *SAME ONE* I'M *THINKING* OF--"

--HE WAS NOTHING BUT *TROUBLE* IN *DOWNLINDA*!*

I HAD A *LOT* OF *CLEANING* UP TO DO AFTER HE *LEFT*!

THAT WAS NOTHING, THUNDERHAWK! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN--

ENOUGH WITH THE *HEDGEHOG*, GRANDFATHER SOJOURNER!

EVERYONE, PLEASE--

* FOR MORE INFO, REFER TO SONIC #61 -- JUSTIN.

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BE THERE!
WHEN SONIC
KNUCKLES & THE

-- WE GET THE PICTURE !

WITHOUT ROBOTNIK AROUND TO TERRORIZE THE GENERAL POPULACE, THINGS HAVE GOT TEN SOMEWHAT CHAOTIC!

HIS LIEUTENANTS WANT TO TAKE CONTROL OVER THEIR LITTLE FIEFDOMS—

--WHILE EVERYONE ELSE JUST WANTS TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND MOVE ON !

IN MANY WAYS, IT MAKES OUR MISSION THAT MUCH MORE COMPLICATED, SABRE !

IT'S EASIER TO PREVENT ULTIMATE ANNIHILATION OR A COMMON ENEMY FROM USURPING TOTAL CONTROL THAN IT IS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH BRUSH FIRE TO PUT OUT !

YOU ARE REFERRING TO ROBOTNIK'S LIEUTENANTS ?

AS WELL AS THE DISCIPLES OF DIMITRI !

MAYBE OUR COUNCIL OF ADVISORS HAVE A SUGGESTION OR TWO ?

PERHAPS

FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, YOU GENTLEMEN FEEL YOUR PURPOSE LACKS FOCUS!

MY FATHER IS RIGHT. WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO CONSIDER IS WHETHER OR NOT YOUR DUTIES HAVE OUTGROWN YOUR ORIGINAL INTENT!

IN WHAT WAY, SEMPER FIDELIS?

THE GUARDIANS' MISSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEFINED AS PROTECTOR OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, WHILE THE BROTHERHOOD HAS LOOKED AFTER ECHIDNA INTERESTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

THE FACT IS THAT OUTSIDE INTERESTS CAN AFFECT ECHIDNA INTERESTS!

THEREFORE, YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES--

ONE: YOU CAN CONDUCT BUSINESS AS USUAL AND ALLOW THE ECHIDNAS TO BECOME AN IRRELEVANT FORCE ON MOBIUS--

"OR TWO YOU CAN BECOME A FORCE TO LEAD THE ECHIDNAS AND THE OTHER SPECIES ON THIS PLANET INTO A NEW GOLDEN AGE!"

DINNER IS SERVED!

ABOUT TIME! I'M STARVED!

THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE, I'M SURE!

MMMM!

IT SMELLS GREAT!

IT DOES INDEED!

WHAT IS IT?

MY SPECIALTY--

CANARD A'LA EXQUISITE!

ENJOY!

LIKE MOM SAID--

WHAT IS IT?

TRY IT! YOU'LL LIKE IT!

FAMOUS LAST WORDS!

CHOMP! CHOMP! CHOMP!

WELL?

IT'LL DO!

DO YOU ALWAYS EAT THIS FANCY?

NOT USUALLY, BUT TODAY IS RATHER SPECIAL!

ONE YOUR MOTHER AND I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING FOR SOME TIME!

AND I'M HOPING— WE'RE HOPING—THAT YOU'LL JOIN IN OUR HAPPINESS!

UH—YEAH— I'M HAPPY YOU'RE HAPPY!

WHAT'S NOT TO BE HAPPY?

WHY ARE YOU HAPPY?

MOM?

WYN HAS ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM, DEAR—

--AND I'VE ACCEPTED!

EXCUSE ME!

KNUCKLES!

I HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM, WYN!

I THINK NOT, LARA!

I SUGGEST YOU LET HIM BE FOR NOW!

WHEN HE'S READY, KNUCKLES WILL TALK TO YOU!

IN THE MEANTIME, WE JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT!

HEY, KNUCKLES!!!

WAIT UP, KNUX!!

WHEN THE MAN F NALLY REAPPEARS, HE S MAK'NG TRACKS AT SUPER SONIC SPEED!

WE SHOULD GO AFTER HIM!

NO, NOT YOU GUYS--

--BUT I SHOULD!

YOU!!?

YEAH! WANNA MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?

WITH YOU?! ANYTIME, ANY--

H'S VECTOR!

GO, JULIE-SU! WE'LL MEET UP WITH YOU LATER!

HAVE YOU LOST IT, ESPIO?

I MEAN--

HE MIGHT GET INTO TROUBLE WITHOUT H'S BUDS!

I DOUBT IT, VECTOR!

IF YOU SAW THE LOOK IN HER EYES THAT I DID--

"-- I BELIEVE IT WOULD TAKE A LOT MORE THAN YOU TO STOP HER! "

WE HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM--

KNUCKLES!

LOCKE'S SON?

YES!

MY FATHER, ATHAIR, TOOK KNUCKLES WITH HIM AND PROVIDED THE PROPER SCENARIO--

--FOR HIM TO INSTINCTIVELY CALL ON HIS ABILITIES. ABILITIES HE HASN'T FULLY MATURED INTO!

WE'VE ALL HAD TO ENDURE GOING THROUGH ADOLESCENCE, SABRE!

JUST BECAUSE IT'S MORE CHALLENGING FOR ONE OF OUR OWN THAN YOUR TYPICAL ECHIDNA--

NO! THIS IS FAR GRAVER!

GRANDFATHER SPECTRE!

ARE YOU AWARE OF SOMETHING WE'RE NOT?

I WARNED YOU YEARS AGO AGAINST TAMPERING WITH THE NATURAL ORDER FOR ANY REASON, LOCKE!

I DON'T RECALL YOU OBJECTING SO LOUDLY BACK THEN, GRANDFATHER!

BACK THEN I SPOKE BASED ON INTUITION!

NOW I SPEAK FROM KNOWLEDGE!

BASED ON WHAT?

FROM WHERE?

GO EASY, LOCKE!

IF SPECTRE IS CONCERNED, THAT'S JUSTIFICATION ALONE--

" -- FOR US TO CONSIDER KNUCKLES PROBLEM IN A MORE SERIOUS LIGHT ! "

HEY, THERE ! WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COMPANY ?

I'D RATHER BE BY MYSELF, THANKS !

YOU DON'T LISTEN VERY WELL, DO YOU ?

ESPECIALLY NOT TO YOU, THAT'S FOR SURE !

IT FIGURES ! HOW ABOUT--?!

SMAK!

WHY DID YOU GO AND DO THAT FOR ?

I'M NOT SURE I EVEN LIKE YOU !

I WAS SIMPLY RETURNING YOU THE FAVOR !

FAVOR?

YEAH, LIKE WHEN YOU TRIED TO CHEER ME UP!*

YEAH? WELL, OKAY! JUST THIS ONCE!

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT!

JULIE-SU?

YES?

DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN!

WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT!

* WAAAAAAAAY BACK IN KNUCKLES #7- HISTORIAN JUSTIN.

OH YES, I WOULD. JUST WISH I UNDERSTOOD WHY!

IT REALLY WASN'T THAT BAD! ACTUALLY, THAT FELT KINDA NICE!

HUM, AS THE FULL MOON SHINES BRIGHTLY IN THE CLEAR NIGHT SKY, TWO FIGURES SHARE A COMFORTABLE SILENCE CONTEMPLATING THEIR FUTURE. SO VERY DIFFERENT AT FIRST GLANCE, YET SO VERY MUCH ALIKE, EACH WONDERING FOR THE FIRST TIME IF THEY ARE SEEING A KINDRED SPIRIT IN THE OTHER, SOMETHING MORE THAN A FRIEND.

AND BOTH WONDERING IF IT'S WORTH IT TO FIND OUT.

NEXT ISSUE: IT'S BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL, WITH ALL THE ACTION AND WONDERMENT YOU'VE COME TO EXPECT. BE HERE FOR...

THE GUARDIAN WHO FAILED!

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FISTFUL OF LETTERS

JUSTIN FREDDY GABRIE EDITOR

THE PAST RETURNS!

NEXT MONTH: PAST AND PRESENT COLLIDE AS A MYSTERIOUS ECHIDNA MAKES HIS PRESENCE KNOWN ON **THE FLOATING ISLAND**. THE SECRETS HE POSSESSES COULD NOT ONLY AFFECT **KNUCKLES**, BUT **THE BROTHERHOOD OF GUARDIANS** WHO STAND WATCH IN **HAVEN** AS WELL. FIND OUT THE ANSWERS IN THIS EPIC TALE OF BETRAYAL AND REDEMPTION. WRITTEN BY KEN PENDERS. ART BY NANNY GALAN AND ANDREW PEPOY. **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #17 ON SALE AUGUST 1998!**

ON OTHER MOBIAN NEWS...

IN TWO WEEKS: WHEN **SONIC AND TAILS** WERE FORCED TO LAND IN THE FORCE-FIELD COVERED CITY OF **SAND BLAST CITY** IN ISSUE #62, THEY HAD NO IDEA WHAT THEY HAD GOTTEN INTO. HAVING TO FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE BECOMES PARAMOUNT AS **THE SAND BLAST FREEDOM FIGHTERS** DECIDE THEY ARE GOING TO STAY THERE... FOREVER! STORY AND ART BY KARL BOLLERS, STEVEN BUTLER & PAM EKLUND. INCLUDED: PART THREE OF **ST. JOHN'S "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE"** STORY LINE. TRAINING BEGINS! WRITTEN & DRAWN BY KEN PENDERS & ART MAWHINNEY. **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #63 ON SALE JULY 1998!**

ON OTHER SEGA NEWS...

AND IN ONE WEEK: ELLIOT AND CLARIS ARE IN TROUBLE: THE SCHOOL IS UPSET OVER THEIR RECENT ABSENCES AND THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO SAVE **NiGHTS!** WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, NiGHTS— WHO CAN'T SURVIVE IN THE "REAL" WORLD— IS CEASING TO EXIST, AND **REALA** IS PLANNING A STRIKE AGAINST NiGHTS' VERY WEAKNESS! CAN CLARIS AND ELLIOT SAVE NiGHTS FROM EXTINCTION— AND THEMSELVES FROM EXPOLSION. BROUGHT TO YOU BY SONIC REGULARS, KARL BOLLERS, PATRICK "SPAZ"ANTE, SAM MAXWELL AND HARVEY MERCADOOCASIO. PLUS CHECK OUT THE COMPUTER-MODELED COVER BY FAN-FAVES SPAZ/HARVO AND HEROIC AGE! **NIGHTS INTO DREAMS #5 ON SALE JULY 1998!**

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #17 ON SALE AUGUST 1998!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #63 ON SALE JULY 1998!

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CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

JUSTIN FREDDY GABRIE

BECAUSE OF LIMITED SPACE, THE EDITORS CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE PUBLISHED AND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT MESSAGES AS THEY SEE FIT.

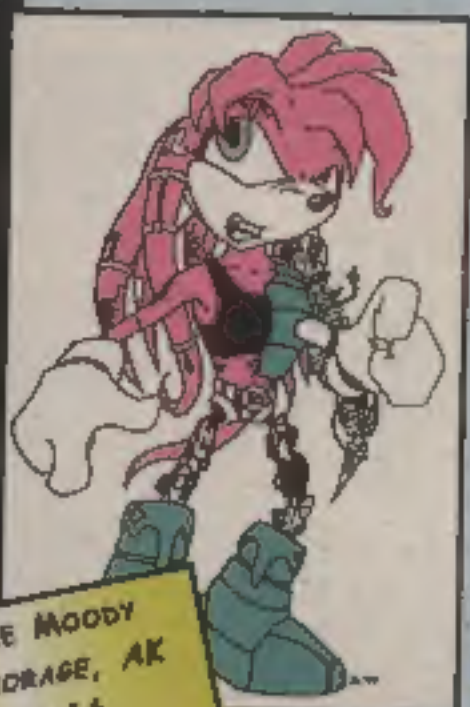
NOTE: DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF E-MAIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO EACH AND EVERY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND EACH MESSAGE WILL BE READ.

THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING!

FAN ART

KNUCKLES

JUSTIN KOO
NEW JERSEY
AGE 11



KATIE MOODY
ANCHORAGE, AK
AGE 16

MICHAEL BEE
PEORIA, IL
AGE 13

GALLAGHER LAIRD
SASKATCH., CANADA

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TO: "KNUCKLES FAN ART #8"
c/o ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX 419
MAMARONECK, NY
10543-0419

Dear Knuckles,

In Knuckles #9, you were put back in one piece again! When you get around to it, you should definitely thank The Ancient Walkers! Poor Enerjak! How could he let Mammoth Mogul use the Sword of Acorns to drain all of his energy!!!?! Now he's just an echidna named Dimitri. I hope he gets his powers back and takes revenge on Mogul. Julie-Su is innocent, I tell you. She should not go to jail. She stopped Kragok and could have disposed The Chaotix in issue #8, but didn't!

Kathleen "Kat" D. Najera
Lakewood, CA

For all his power, Enerjak constantly underestimated his opponents. He thought all his power would protect him no matter what. Enter Mogul who had the will, the drive, the intelligence and the patience to do the impossible. But don't count Dimitri out yet. As you can see, Julie-Su is not only out of jail but an official team member of The Chaotix.

NOTES FROM THE NET

Dear Knuckles,

I am Kragok. The stupid constable was so blind, he didn't notice my escape until it was too late. And as soon as I round up all my echidnas and Julie-Su escapes, I will take over the entire island! But first I have some questions for you: 1) What is Locke's father's name? 2) Do you have a grandmother? 3) If yes, will you show her?

Kragok (Michael D. Griffith)
kragok@juno.com

You might have escaped, but the real Kragok is still being held by the Echidna Security Team, so I don't think so. Now on to some answers: 1) Sabre is Locke's father's name. 2 & 3) Yes, I do. Her name is Jenna-Lu and she makes an appearance in Knuckles #16.

So until next month, stay cool!

LETTERS OF

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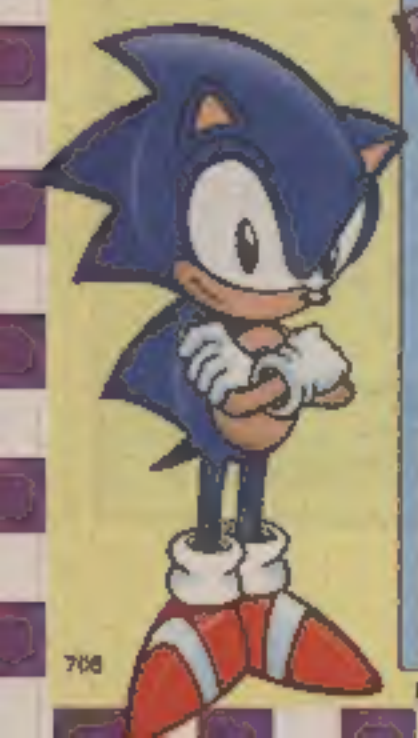

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